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Title: Listen: How to make a Fat Man Step-by-step book recently added to Lab collections

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Listen: How to make a Fat Man

Step-by-step book recently added to Lab collections

The National Security Research Center has tens of millions of materials. This is the Lab's classified library, which also houses artifacts from LANL history. Think of still-secret nuclear weapons data, old photos of the town in the 1940s, an old pair of goggles from the testing days, and so much more.

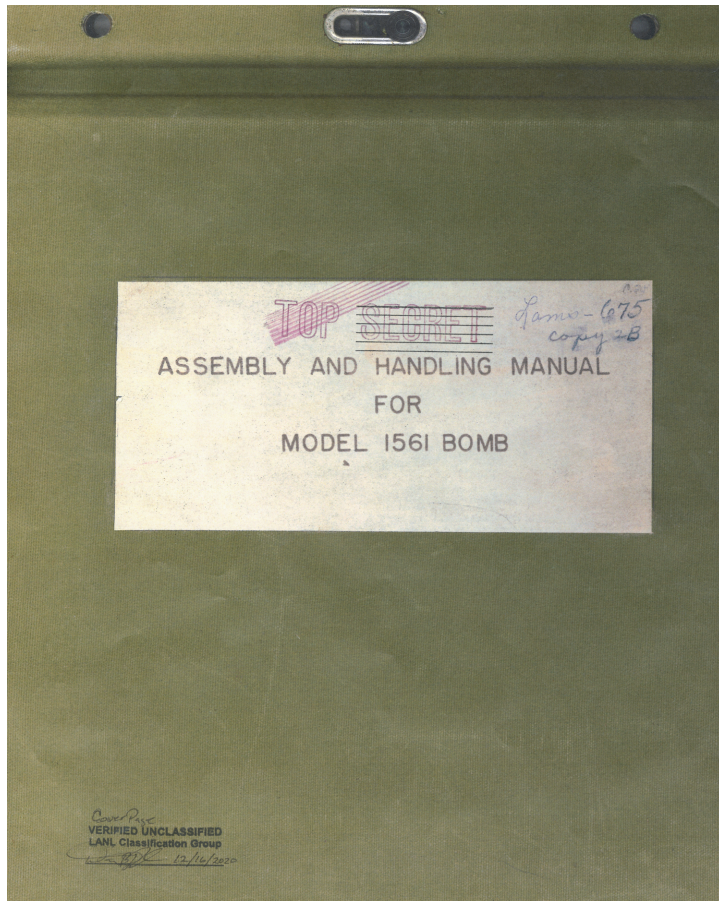
These relics come in every medium imaginable. Films, cassettes, photos, handwritten notes, engineering drawings. And, just recently in fact, a very special book: a step-by step manual on how to assemble Fat Man. It is the only known copy of this book in existence.

Listen to **Alan Carr**, the senior historian at the NSRC, and **Keith Thomas**, a LANL research scientist, talk about this book in Episode 3 of the Relics podcast series.

Inside the episode

"Fat Man" was the codename for the implosion-type, plutonium nuclear weapon. Los Alamos scientists created Fat Man to help end World War II. Its predecessor was tested in the New Mexico desert on July 16, 1945. The Trinity test proved a Fat Man-type weapon would be successful in war. It also marked the dawn of the Atomic Age.

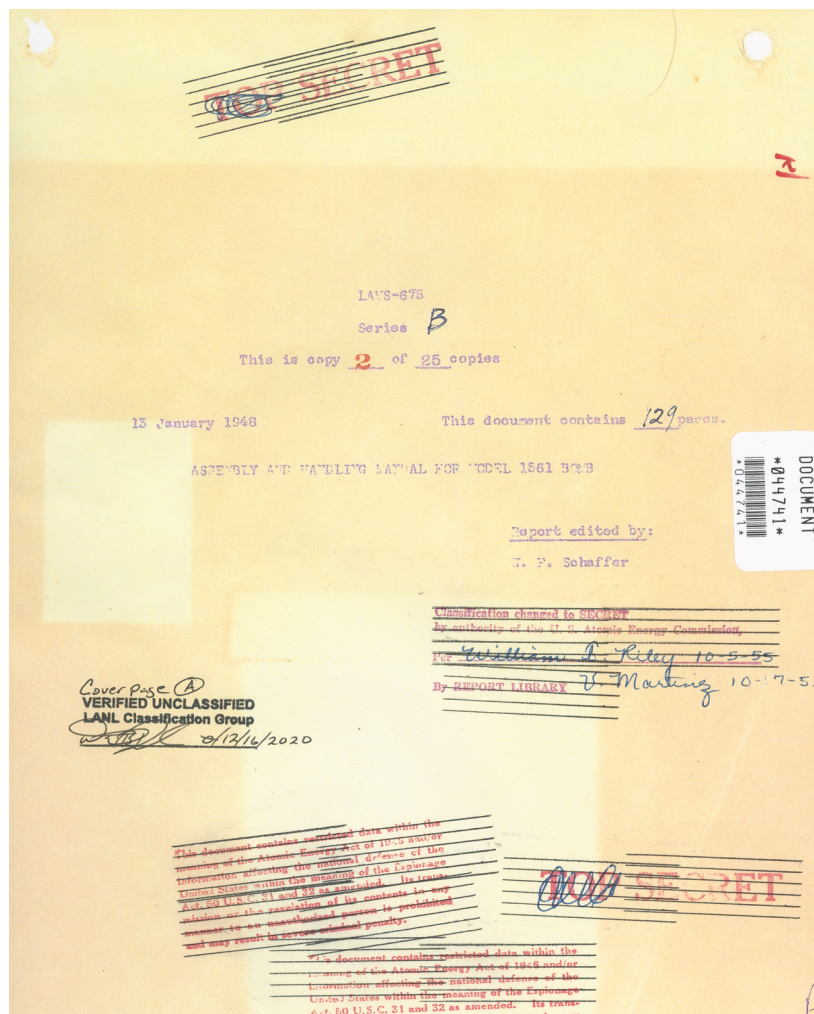
The assembly for this weapon is documented in this 149-page book and includes detailed drawings. Authored by a group of scientists after World War II ended, it is now housed in the Lab's NSRC.



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caption:

The Lab's National Security Research Center recently added to its collections a guidebook for building a Fat Man-type weapon. It is the only known copy of this book in existence and came from a retiring LANL staff member; the 129-page book is classified, but this cover is not. The NSRC is the Lab's classified library.



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caption:

A step-by-step book on building a Fat Man-type weapon was authored by a group of Los Alamos Lab staff not long after World War II ended. The Lab developed two nuclear weapons, Fat Man and Little Boy, which were released over Japan in August 1945. The Lab's National Security Research Center recently added this book to its collections of millions of national security materials. The book is classified, but this page and the front cover are unclassified.